



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-CG

FEB 14 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Presidents' Day Safety Message 2011

1. We will commemorate birthdays of our past presidents on 21 February 2011. Presidents' Day was the first federal holiday to honor an American citizen; President George Washington. We celebrated the holiday on 22 February, President Washington's birthday, until 1971 when President Richard Nixon proclaimed it as one single federal holiday to be observed on the third Monday in February.
2. If you are traveling the roads this long weekend, keep in mind that the risk of motor vehicle accident fatalities increases substantially on federal holidays. The National Highway Traffic Safety Association reports that motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 3 and 34 - so buckle up and drive safely.
3. Many parts of the country have experienced winter weather unlike any prior year. If you are traveling in those affected states, be aware of the hazards associated with the weather conditions and ensure your vehicle is prepared and properly equipped. Review precautions for driving in adverse weather, take plenty of rest breaks during long trips, and use TRiPS during your travel planning. Be prepared for travel delays at the airports and notify your chain of command if you are going to be late returning to duty.
4. Successful leaders guide Soldiers to make the right decisions by directly interacting with them. Pine Tree Counseling, conducting vehicle inspections, and providing thorough safety briefs prior to the long weekends are other measures that contribute to keeping our Soldiers safe. Enjoy the long weekend and thank you for all you do.

*Enjoy the
long weekend and
come back safe.*

CLARENCE K.K. CHINN
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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